

ACOTE Meeting Minutes
Tuesday, APRIL 28, 2015
5:30 pm; Hartford Public Library

Call to Order/Review Agenda at 5:49 pm by JoAnne Bauer, Chair

Commissioners Present: Bill Upholt; Mark Mitchell, June O'Neill; Russell Williams

Commissioners excused:

Commissioners absent:

Guest Introductions/Public Comments: None

Recycling Update: Marilynn Cruz-Aponte presented recent activities and supplied a handout on Recycling, etc. (ATTACHED). Leaf pickup and compost availability will begin in May. The City will look into the possibility of renting recycle bins to small stores and non-profits. *Big Bellys* will be phased out due to expense of manpower.

Meeting Minutes for March 2015 for review/acceptance/posting. **Postponed until next meeting** due to needed rewriting.

Treasurer's Update

Mark was informed of his election as Treasurer from last month's annual election of officers. Mark explained his understanding of how ACOTE funds get requested through DPW -- \$1,000 available annually if receipts submitted up to that amount.

Discussion: Hartford Earth Festival/Green Neighbors Tent

Bill and JoAnne described how they met with Terri Eikel, coordinator of Hartford Earth Festival and CT Climate March (as well as Special Olympics torch) and Emily Hultquist of CRCOG for planning. There are approx 15 possible presenters &/or tablers for this year's Green Neighbors Tent event, May 31st.

UPDATES

Administrative Items/ ByLaws/ Ordinance

Councilor MacDonald reviewed the establishing Ordinance with JoAnne. Changes are needed to broaden the mission to include "sustainability and community resilience," as well as to highlight targeted efforts toward "recycling" and "clean energy and efficiency.". Also to remove reference to specific officers; instead TBD by membership through annual elections.

ACOTE Website/**Facebook Page**/*Green Pages* Database for Events, Projects, and General Content

JoAnne has created a Facebook page for ACOTE and will continue to add content.

Membership Russell spoke with Bob Painter, who will be independently supportive of our efforts and will meet periodically with Marilyn. Mark suggested that Russell contact Lloyd Duggan.

Energy (Htfd Clean Energy Task Force) JoAnne wrote a letter to the Mayor's office on behalf of ACOTE urging the City to adopt the recommendations of the Clean Energy Task Force and the Energy Improvement Districts

Clean Water Action: Mark Mitchell is on their Board; he will invite Ann Hulick to our next meeting to discuss definition of Waters of the Americas to regulate navigable streams.

Legislative

Mark is working at the Federal level re: chemical safety & regulations, supported by over 450 diverse organizations in Coalition for Safe & Healthy Families. Senate bill voted out of committee. Visit to Chris Murphy's office planned, Friday May 8th, 3 pm, One Constitution Plaza, re: State pre-emption issue. Of 84, 000 chemicals, only "25 safe and 25 harmful" to be looked at each year.

Also, Mark has been working on a survey of 60 convenience stores in 5 cities re: on-shelf alternatives to tuna, containing 46% mercury from tuna, esp in white and yellow fin (& other large predatory fish such as shark, mahi mahi, king mackerel) caused by oil & coal mining and gold ore separation. New Federal guidelines do not condemn tuna. Good alternatives to tuna are salmon, mackerel, sardines **ACOTE vote to sign onto letter about dietary guidelines, to oppose the current standards.**

JoAnne again distributed notes from Evan Preston re: ConnPIRG's legislation agenda & will send League of Conservation Voters Watchlist of Bills to all Commissioners. **Individuals are encouraged to write letters in support of state legislation.**

Other/New Business:

Council Committee: JoAnne will go to this month's committee and wants ACOTE members to take turns doing so.

Announcements:

per Bill: Htfd's Engineering and Technology High School was recognized nationally as a Green Ribbon School.
per June: CCEJ's School of Social Work Interns interested in civil disobedience program like at Highlander School in Tennessee. Also, CCEJ raising funds for cruise with environmental workshops.

Meeting Adjourned at 7 pm.

Next Meeting: May 26th, 5:30 pm, Htfd Public Library